



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED FOR IMMIGRATION VIOLATIONS

(Tyler, TX) United States Attorney Matthew D. Orwig announced today that a 21-year-old illegal alien from Mexico has been sentenced to five months in federal prison for immigration violations in the Eastern District of Texas. **MARTIN VILLEGAS-RODRIGUEZ** was sentenced today by United States District Judge Leonard Davis for returning to the United States after having been previously deported to Mexico.

According to information presented in court, on January 19, 2006, the Panola County Sheriff's Office contacted Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) regarding a suspected illegal alien who was in their custody on state charges. ICE agents determined that Villegas was a Mexican citizen, an alien in the United States, who had been previously deported in June 2004. Villegas admitted that after being deported, he had returned to the United States without permission or consent of the Attorney General of the United States or the Secretary for Homeland Security.

Villegas will be deported to Mexico upon the completion of his federal prison sentence.

This case was investigated by the Panola County Sheriff's Office and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Allen Hurst.

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